



127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 1239

S.P. 444

In Senate, April 7, 2015

An Act To Allow Persons To Train and Use Dogs To Hunt Coyotes

(AFTER DEADLINE)

(EMERGENCY)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

Reference to the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator SAVIELLO of Franklin.

Cosponsored by Senators: BURNS of Washington, DAVIS of Piscataquis, DILL of Penobscot, DUTREMBLE of York, HAMPER of Oxford, KATZ of Kennebec, LANGLEY of Hancock.

1 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3 **Whereas,** current law allows for coyote hunting at night beginning on December
4 16th of each year; and

5 **Whereas,** this legislation allows for dogs to be used when hunting coyotes and in
6 order for dogs to be properly trained for this action, training needs to begin before the
7 effective date of nonemergency legislation; and

8 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
9 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
10 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
11 therefore,

12 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

13 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §12001, sub-§4** is enacted to read:

14 **4. Hunting coyotes with dogs.** A person may use a dog to hunt or may be
15 accompanied by a dog while hunting coyotes under this section.

16 **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §12051, sub-§1, ¶A,** as repealed and replaced by PL 2013, c.
17 588, Pt. A, §16, is amended to read:

18 A. A person may train dogs on coyotes, foxes, snowshoe hare and raccoons from
19 July 1st through the following March 31st, including Sundays.

20 **Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §12051, sub-§3,** as amended by PL 2011, c. 253, §22, is
21 further amended to read:

22 **3. Possessing firearm while training dogs.** A person may not possess a firearm
23 while training a dog outside of the open training season on coyotes, foxes, snowshoe hare
24 and raccoons as set out in subsection 1.

25 A. A person who violates this subsection commits a civil violation for which a fine
26 of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 may be adjudged.

27 B. A person who violates this subsection after having been adjudicated as having
28 committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period
29 commits a Class E crime.

30 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this
31 legislation takes effect when approved.

32 **SUMMARY**

33 This bill allows a person to train and use dogs to hunt coyotes.